



NEWS RELEASE

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**FAIRBANKS JURY FORFEITS CASH AND WEAPONS
CONNECTED TO DRUG TRAFFICKING**

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced that on September 7, 2007, after deliberating four hours, a Fairbanks jury of seven men and five women reached verdicts that a .45 cal./9mm machine gun, a pistol-grip 12 gauge shotgun, a 7.62 x 39 mm Colt Sporter rifle and \$38,848 in cash shall be forfeited to the United States by Jason Scott Colette, a resident of Fairbanks, Alaska. Colette had previously been convicted by a different Fairbanks jury of unlawful possession of cocaine with intent to distribute and cocaine distribution.

Colette's criminal forfeiture case was tried before United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Beistline in Fairbanks.

According to Assistant United States Attorney James N. Barkeley, who prosecuted the case, the evidence presented at trial established that the machine gun, shotgun, assault rifle and cash assisted Colette's possession of 23 ounces of cocaine when law enforcement authorities searched his bedroom on November 28, 2005. Such items are forfeitable under federal law, if they facilitate drug trafficking. The forfeitures will become part of Colette's sentence, pursuant to which Colette is already serving 96 months in federal prison.

The Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement (ABADE) conducted the investigation that led to the prosecution of Colette. ABADE consists of law enforcement officers from the Alaska State Troopers, the Fairbanks Police Department, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks Police Department.

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